



Department of Justice

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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March 16, 2012

[Plattsburgh, New York]—United States Attorney Richard S. Hartunian announced today that Konstantin SORIN, Boris SORIN, Ashley SCHMID, Harold FRASER, William VOTRA, Noah KING, Jovane ROSA and Mark VEVERKA have all been convicted and sentenced on a charge of Conspiracy to Possess With Intent to Distribute and to Distribute Marijuana in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 846. The Honorable Gary L. Sharpe, Chief Judge, sitting in Albany, New York, presided over the case.

On July 12, 2011, Jovane ROSA, 28 and a resident of Troy, New York, was sentenced to 46 months imprisonment and three years supervised release. On November 2, 2011, William VOTRA, 43 and a resident of Hopkinton, New York, was sentenced to 41 months imprisonment and four years supervised release. On November 14, 2011, Mark VEVERKA, 26 and a resident of Chesterland, Ohio, was sentenced to two years supervised release. On February 3, 2012, Ashley SCHMID, 24 and a resident of South Euclid, Ohio, was sentenced to four years supervised release. On February 21, 2012, Harold FRASER, 45 and a resident of Dickinson Center, New York, was sentenced to four years supervised release. On March 13, 2012, Noah KING, 39 and a resident of Snye, Quebec, Canada, was sentenced to the mandatory minimum sentence of 60 months imprisonment and four years supervised release. On March 14, 2012, Konstantin SORIN, 26 and a resident of Solon, Ohio, was sentenced to a term of imprisonment of 46 months and four years supervised release. On March 14, 2012, Boris SORIN, 56 and a

resident of Cleveland, Ohio, was sentenced to four years supervised release. Kimberly COOK is the only defendant that has not been sentenced.

This case was the result of a joint investigation between the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Homeland Security Investigations, United States Border Patrol, the New York State Police the Franklin County District Attorney's Office, the Franklin County Border Narcotics Task Force, the Saint Lawrence County Drug Task Force, the Reminderville Police Department in Reminderville, Ohio and the Beachwood Police Department in Beachwood, Ohio. The investigation revealed that from approximately 2007 until June 2009, Konstantin SORIN and Ashley SCHMID purchased large quantities of marijuana from William VOTRA, Harold FRASER and others and then resold the marijuana to retail dealers in the Cleveland, Ohio area. Mark VEVERKA and Konstantin SORIN's father, Boris SORIN, worked with SORIN and SCHMID, helping to transport the marijuana from Franklin County, New York to Ohio. Noah KING assisted VOTRA and FRASER by supplying VOTRA and FRASER with large quantities of marijuana to resell to SORIN and SCHMID. Jovane ROSA was a customer of VOTRA and sold large quantities of marijuana in the Albany, New York area. The investigation resulted in the seizure of more than ten vehicles and more than \$1,100,000 in cash stored at various residences in Ohio and Franklin County. The vehicles were forfeited pursuant to Title 21, United States Code, Section 853, because they were either purchased with proceeds of the drug conspiracy or were used to facilitate the conspiracy. The currency seized was also forfeited pursuant to Title 21, United States Code, Section 853, because the money represented the proceeds of the drug conspiracy. Members of the DEA also seized approximately .5 kilograms of cocaine from Harold FRASER's residence.

Any questions may be directed to Executive Assistant U.S. Attorney John G. Duncan in Syracuse, New York at (315) 448-0672 or Assistant U.S. Attorney Daniel C. Gardner in Plattsburgh, New York at (518) 314-7800.